

## GREATER MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Big Sur Land Trust	Garrapata Creek Watershed Council
California Coastal Commission	Marina Coast Water District
California State University Monterey Bay	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
California Water Service Company	Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Castroville Community Services District	Monterey County Water Resources Agency
City of Salinas	Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
Coastlands Mutual Water Company	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve	Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water	San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.

December 21, 2010

Department of Water Resources  
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management  
PO Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001  
Attention: Mr. Joe Yun

Dear Mr. Yun,

On behalf of the Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) and our fiscal sponsor, the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation, we wish to submit the following comments regarding the funding recommendations for Round 1 of the Proposition 84 IRWM Planning Grant program. The Greater Monterey County RWMG fully supports the funding recommendations released by the Department of Water Resources on December 8, 2010. We are pleased and appreciative that the Department has recommended full funding for the Region's proposal entitled, "Regional Planning Grant to Complete an IRWM Plan for the new Greater Monterey County Region."

The objective for our Planning Grant request is to bring an existing IRWM Functionally Equivalent Plan (FEP) to a completed and approved IRWM Plan that meets current IRWM Program standards, and to strengthen and enhance the IRWM planning process for the new Greater Monterey County IRWM region. As you are aware, the Greater Monterey County region represents an expansion of a former IRWM region, the Salinas Valley region, which was created under Proposition 50. The new region was created in order to address significant geographic coverage voids in the Central Coast Funding Area for the purposes of IRWM planning. Since the formation of the new regional boundaries and new RWMG in January 2009, significant progress has been made toward developing an entirely new IRWM Plan for the Greater Monterey County region, but the Plan is still far from complete. The Planning Grant funds requested in this proposal will enable the RWMG to complete the Plan, as well as bring the existing work up to Proposition 84 standards.

In addition, Planning Grant funds will provide much-needed support for the IRWM planning process, including: increased outreach to disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes; an evaluation of climate change impacts on water supplies and natural resources in the region; the development of a comprehensive data management system with potential for expansion and use for the entire Central Coast region; the development and testing of a new conflict resolution approach for the planning region; support for increased stakeholder outreach and participation; a tool to assist project proponents with economic feasibility analysis; and support for interregional coordination on joint projects. We look forward to beginning this work in January 2011, and are grateful for the State's support.



Thank you for considering our comments, and for your continued efforts in providing support for integrated regional water management planning in California.

Sincerely,



Susan Robinson  
Coordinator for the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan

On behalf of the Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group

cc: Dennis Long, Executive Director  
Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation